

The Valley COMIC N · E · W · S

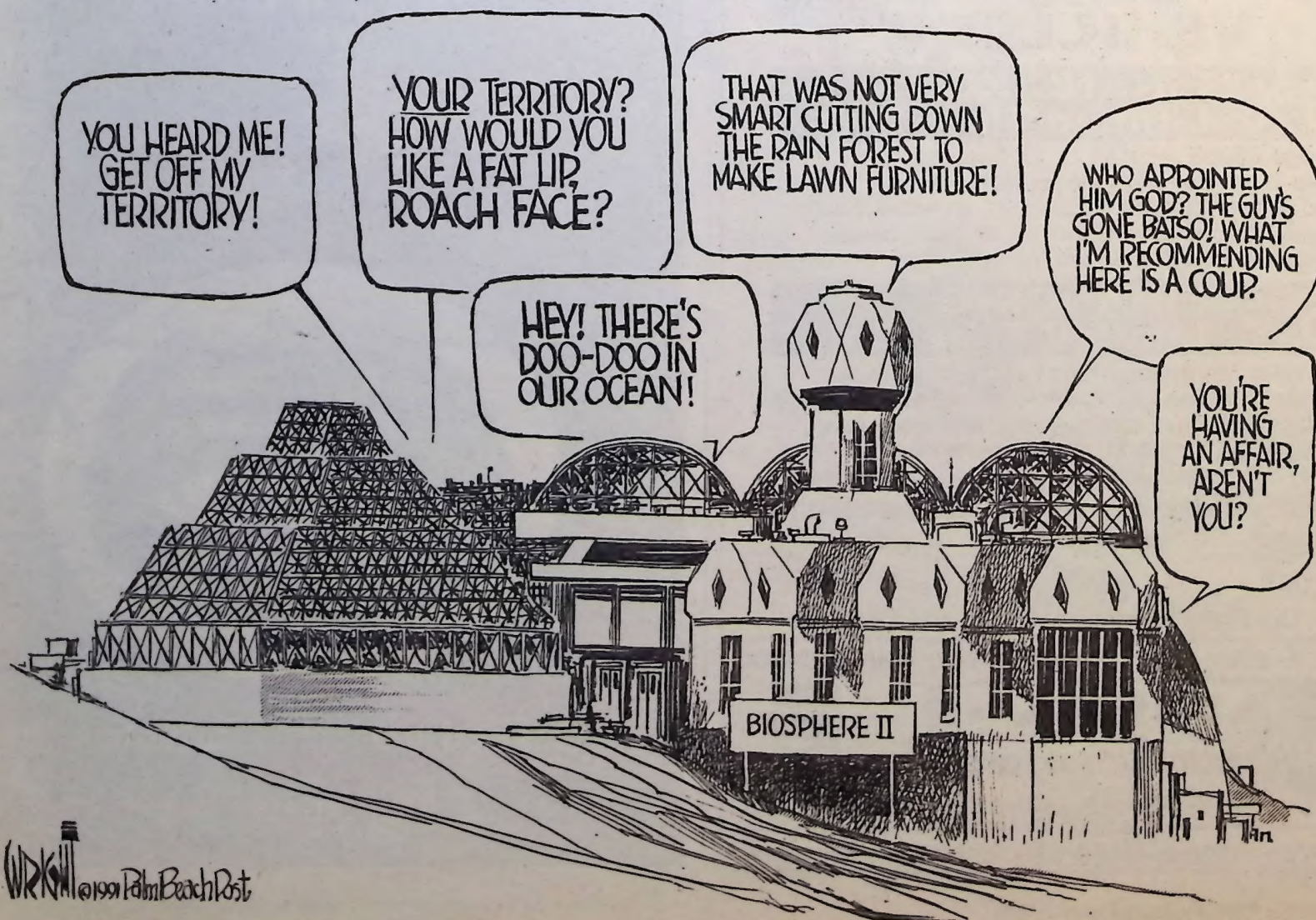


ISSUE #48
October 10, 1991

FREE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE, DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS, VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT, THE BRASS AND FERN,
EARTHWEEK, IZZY GESELL'S *HUMOR ME*,
PRESIDENT BILL, JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD

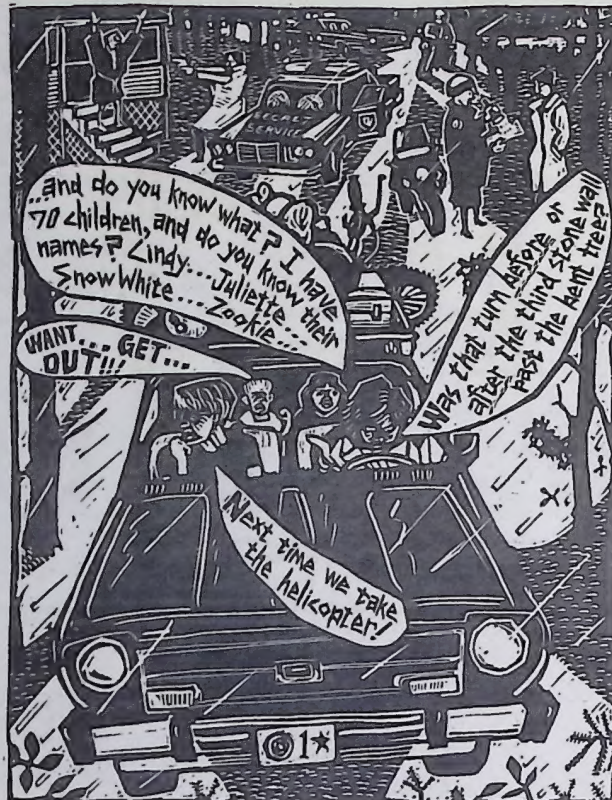
STORIES:
BACK IN THE USSA
WHO'S ON FIRST?
WE'RE BUSHED
ASS BACKWARDS
THE PLACES YOU'LL GO



PRESIDENT BILL BY WILLIAM L. BROWN

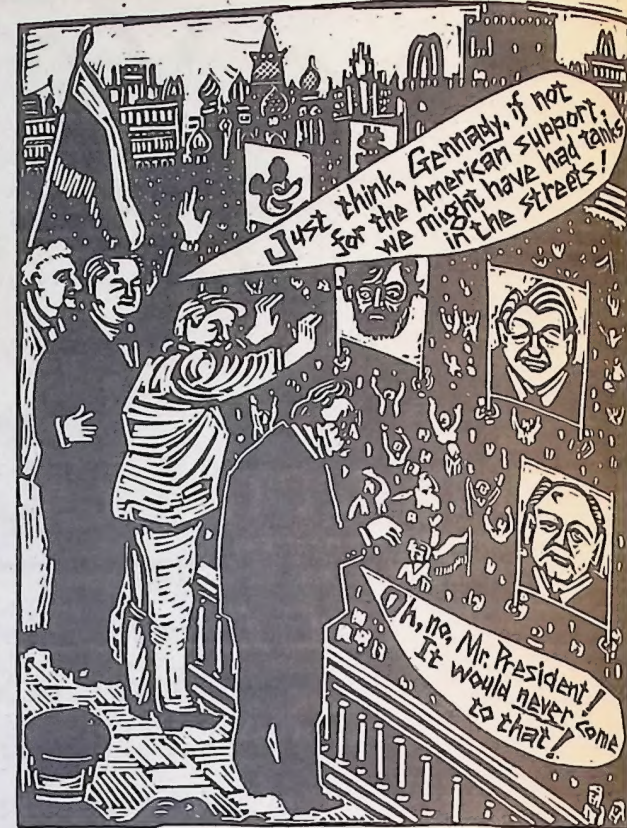
© PRESIDENT BILL

Even the president of ★ the United States, founder of randomness and mastermind of New World Entropy, needs a break now and then. The first family vacationed in my home state, New Hampshire. We shared a tiny, rustic lake-side cabin with my aunt, several cousins and their children, and my grandmother. We couldn't afford anything lavish since, on principle, I refused to accept a presidential salary higher than my previous income. Also, I eschewed wasteful travel by official helicopter, preferring to drive, like normal vacationing Americans. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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While I was ★ ★ ★ ★ vacationing, my good friend Mikhail Gorbachev called me up to appeal for help. The Soviet economy was failing, and Stalinist hard-liners were threatening to overthrow him. He wanted America's financial aid to retool the Soviet Union's industries and to convert the ruble to a hard currency. Without hesitation I agreed, redirecting funds to the Soviets from our Cold War military/industrial complex. The money would still be used to defeat communism, though American jobs would be lost. It would be a small sacrifice for world peace and freedom. ★ ★ ★



"President Bill" appears in *President Bill, a Graphic Epic*, a book published by Andrews and McMeel. This book is now available at Broadside Bookshop, Faces, Food For Thought Books, and the Beyond Words bookstore. Get caught up on the story. It's worth it.

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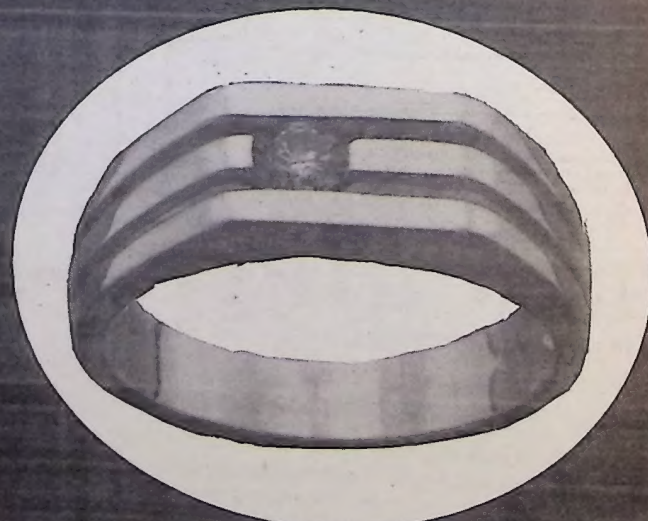
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PAGE THREE

A sign on a UMASS bulletin board loaded with cartoons tells it all: WE'VE GOT TO LAUGH TO KEEP FROM CRYING! On the surface our mission here seems so easy. New political comics come in the mail each day and all we have to do is look them over, bunch them together by subject and pick a spot in the paper onto which to paste them. And all the while we get to laugh, laugh, laugh. HA! HA! HA! Well, it ain't exactly so. There seems to be a cumulative effect from this constant exposure and evaluation of our times as seen through the eyes and pens of the cartoonists featured herein, an effect not only on us at the Comic News, but also (from what you tell us) on the populace at large. What's happening is the deepening of our appreciation for the gift of laughter. It's not just that we laugh to be entertained or surprised. We (and I speak Homo Sapienly) laugh to save our sanity, because even though we cannot change all things, we certainly can see them from different perspectives and thereby preserve some of our sanity. People not in control of their own situation very often have only one means of dealing with the unbearable. That way is through laughter. Laughter helps maintain balance and perspective on a situation and, as psychologist Rollo May pointed out, balance and perspective are the keys to mental health. Come to think of it, comedian Elaine May said the same thing.

The Valley Comic News

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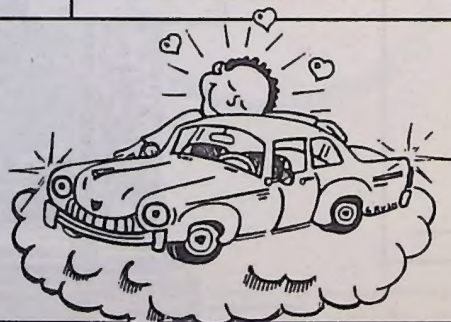
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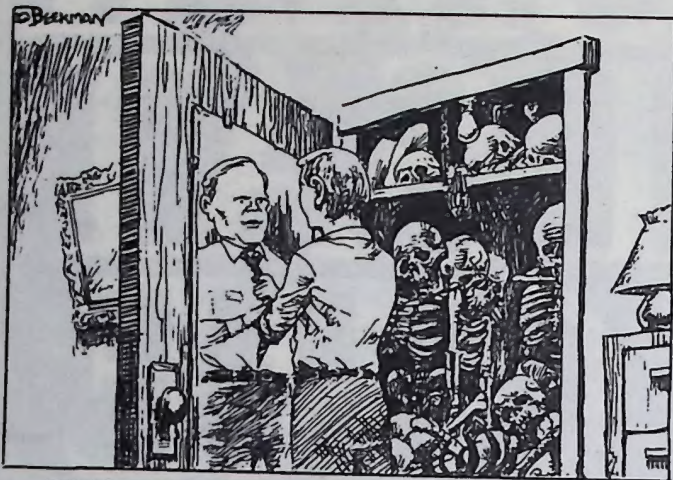
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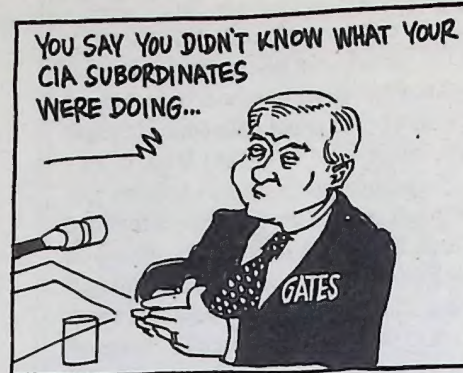


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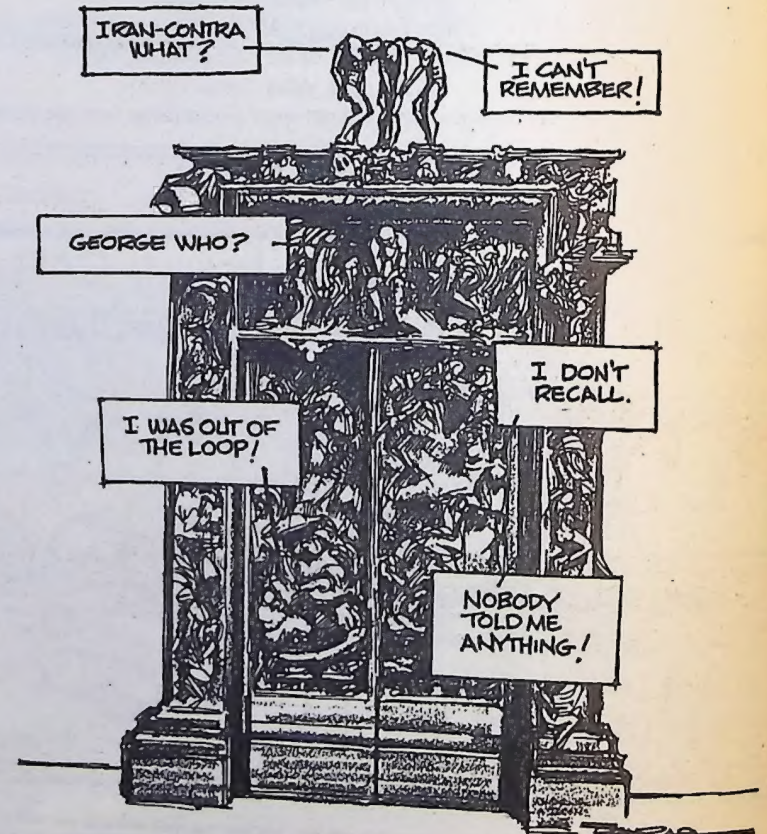
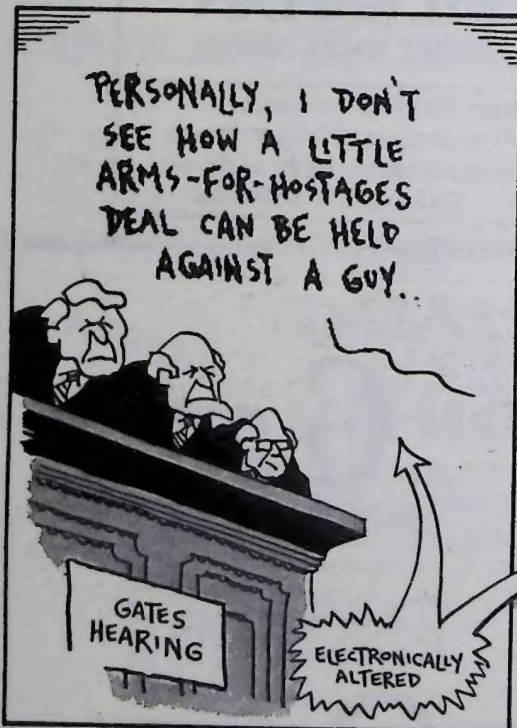
Who's On First?



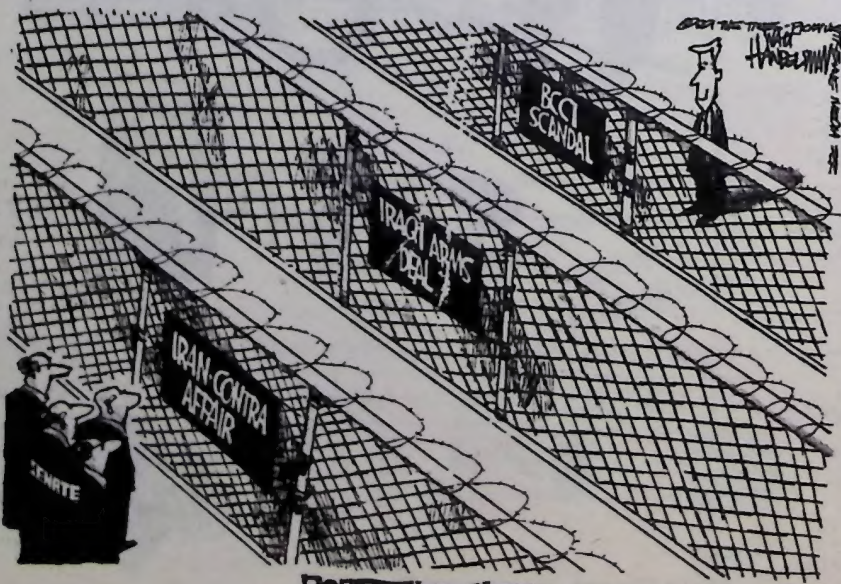
JUST A FEW BONES TO PICK WITH GATES' NOMINATION...



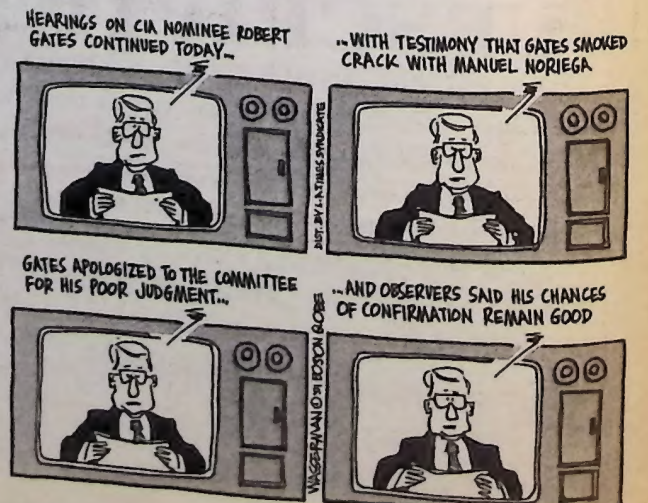
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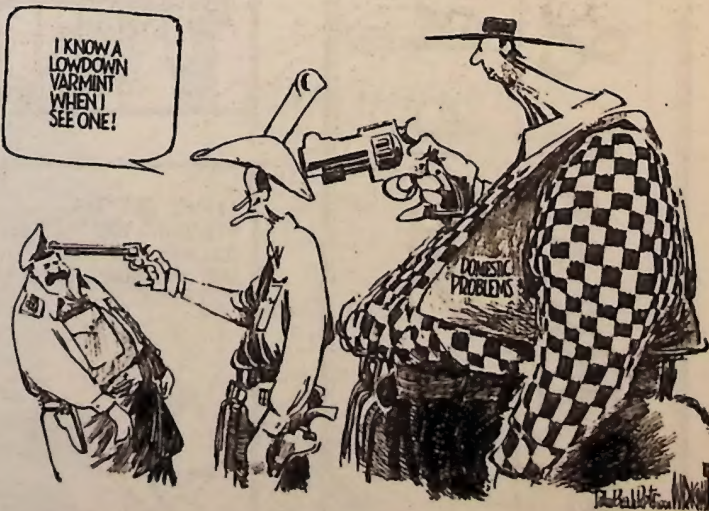
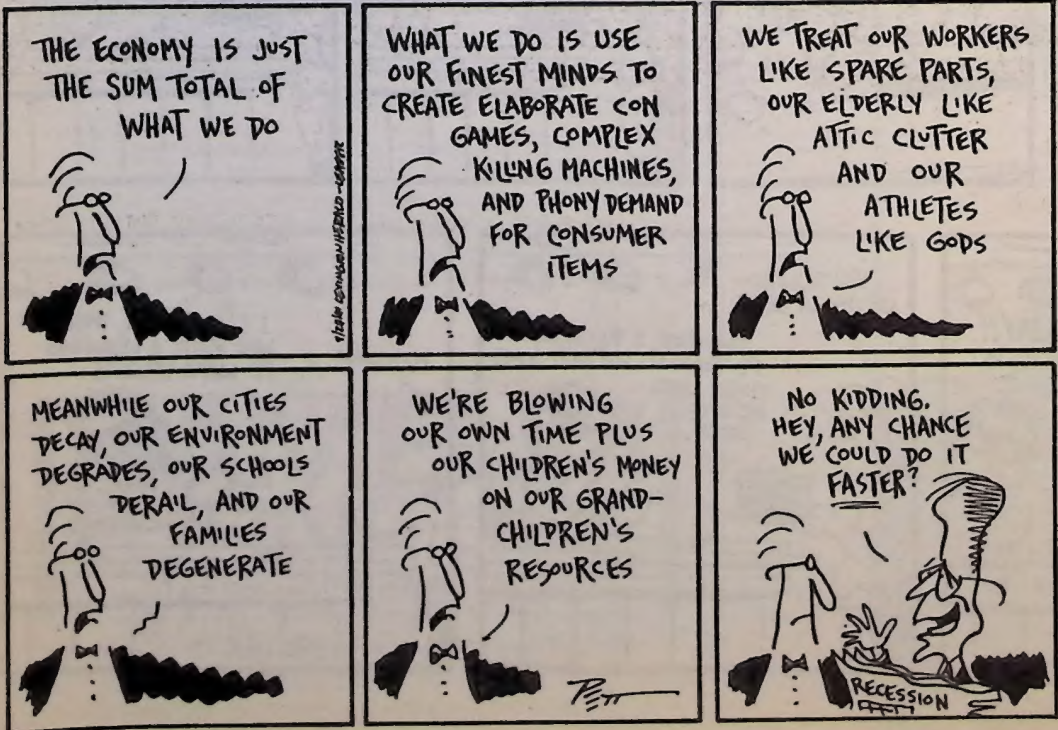
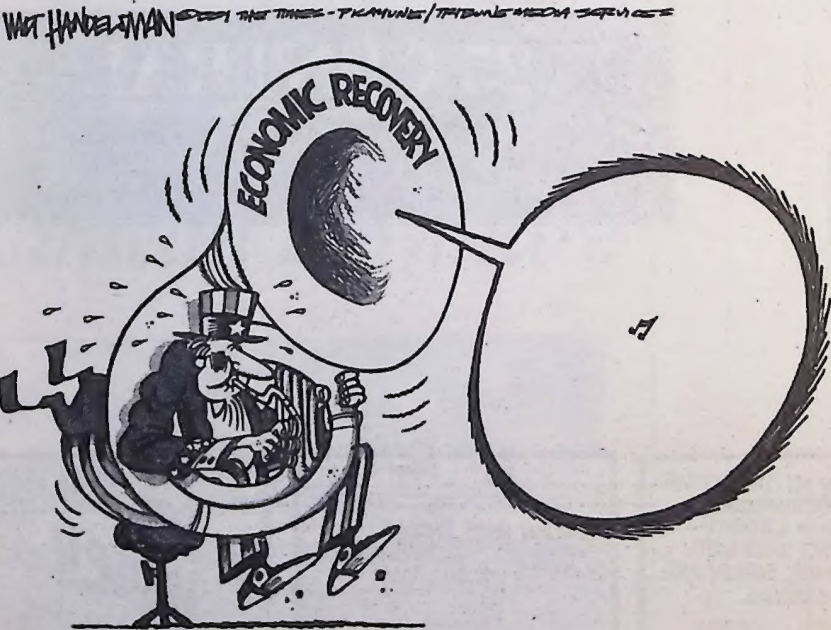
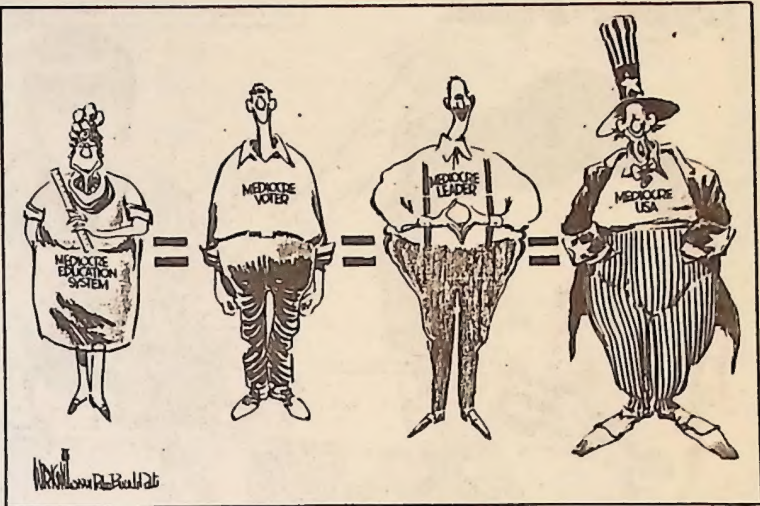
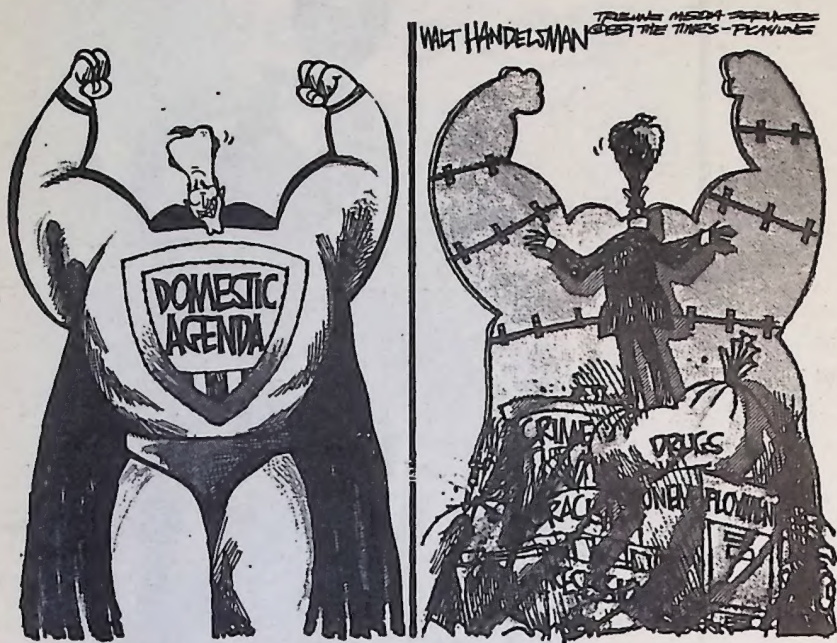
GATES OF HELL. — RODIN



ROBERT'S GATES



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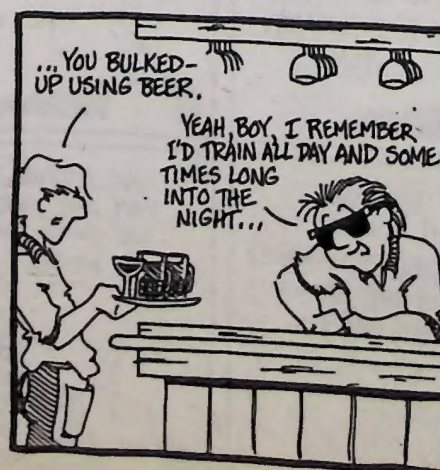
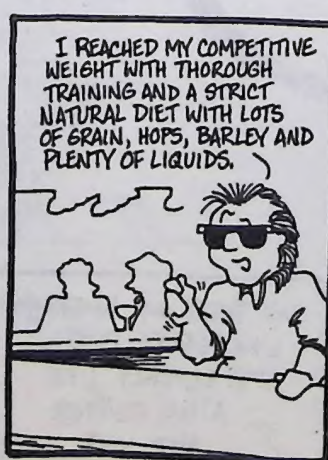
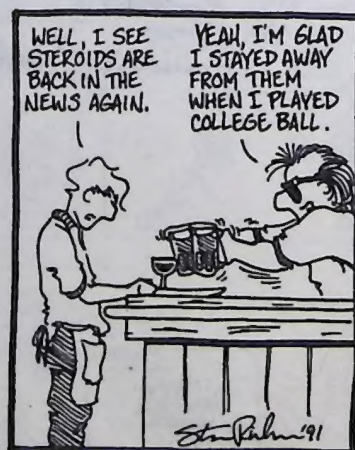


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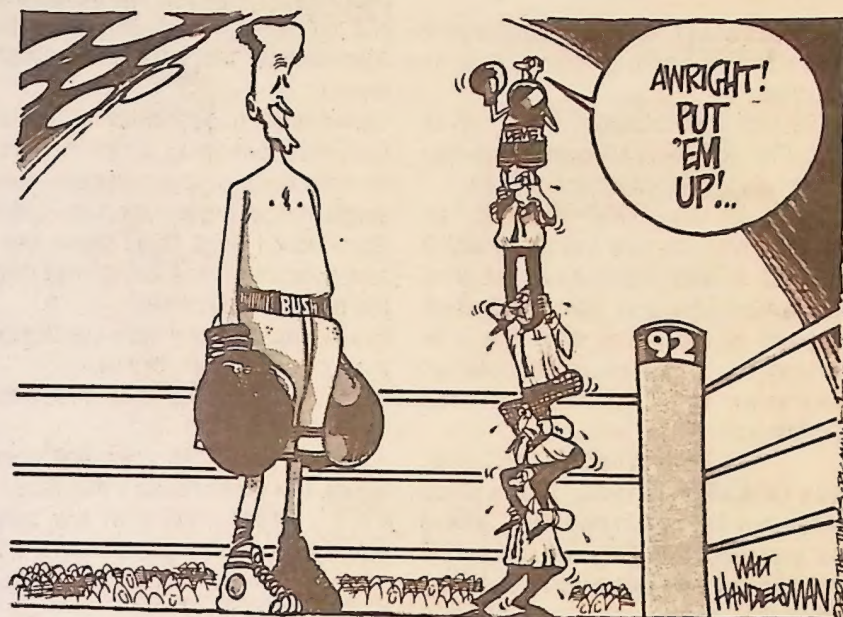
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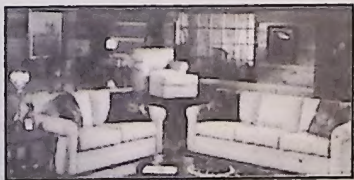
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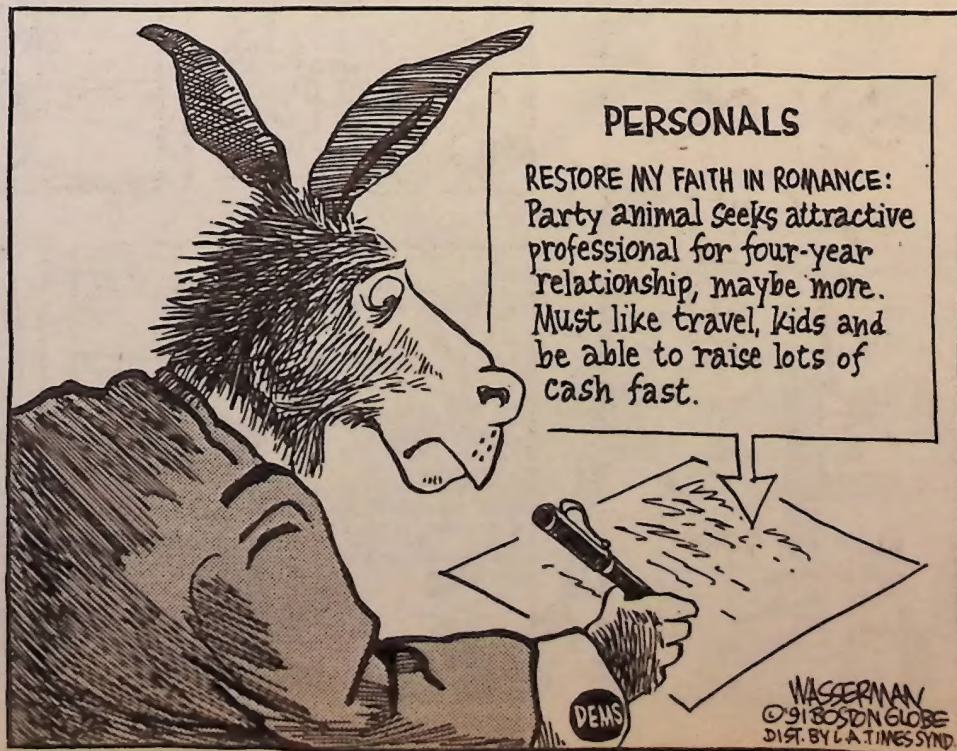
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JOE BOB BRIGGS

On the same day, in America, in the year 1991, the following news events occurred:

1) Geraldo Rivera published an "I Was a Sex Pig" book revealing all the women he supposedly diddled around with.

2) Vanity Fair published an interview with Jessica Lange in which she goes on and on about all the sexual aardvarking she was doing with Sam Shepard at the same time she was carrying on "a European relationship" (whatever that is) with Mikhail Baryshnikov.

3) A woman named Tai Collins, "Miss USA Virginia 1983," held a press conference in Washington, D.C., where she unveiled her Playboy magazine photo layout and described the hanky panky that supposedly went on in a room at the Hotel Pierre in New York City with Senator Charles Robb, who happens to be married to the daughter of an ex-president.

4) Mickey Rourke agreed to give an interview to The Village Voice, on the condition that he could not be asked about anything concerning his relationship with a woman named Carre Otis. I have no idea who Carre Otis is, but if I were to see Mickey on the street, I'd want to roll down my window and scream out, "Hey, Mickey! I know *all* about Carre!"

5) Actor Alec Baldwin was photographed at the U.S. Open tennis tournament sitting next to superstar Monica Seles. When a CBS reporter

interviewed Monica a few minutes later, she asked her, "When will you be seeing Alec again?" Monica had no clear-cut answer.

Do we really need to know all this stuff? Did I miss something, or did Robin Leach recently become the president of every single media organization in America? Somehow I don't think these are the same news stories being reported by the media in Lithuania.

I have a theory about how it got this way, though, and it goes like this.

1776: "All men are created equal."

1865: "All men are created equal. We really mean it this time."

1917: "All men are created equal, and we even mean women, too."

1946: "All men are entitled to their own opinion."

1964: "The votes of all men are equal."

1967: "The opinions of all men are equal."

1969: "The opinions of all men are correct, each in his own way."

1973: "All men are entitled to all the information about their government."

1976: "All men are entitled to all the information about their government and their politicians and anybody running for office."

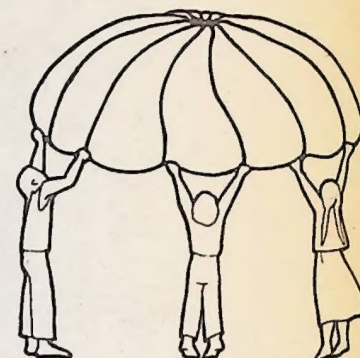
1980: "All men are entitled to know everything about anybody who's running for office, in office, or just a big shot."

1984: All men are entitled to know everything about anybody who's rich."

1987: All men are entitled to know everything about anybody who's a movie star or athlete or anything else where it seems like they're getting way too much money for whatever feeble thing it is that they do."

1991: "All men are entitled to know everything about everybody." I think you can see where this has led us. It has led us straight into the dark recesses of Geraldo Rivera's bedroom. Freedom can be very scary.

To discuss the meaning of life with Joe Bob, or to get his world-famous "We Are the Weird" newsletter, write P.O. Box 2002, Dallas, TX 75221. Joe Bob's Fax line is 214-368-2310. COPYRIGHT 1991 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.



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SUBJECTS	SUBJECT GRADE	SENIOR REPORT CARD	MARKS	CHARACTER	OTHER	WORK HABITS	COOPERATION	TIMES ABSENT	TIMES TARDY
ECONOMICS	SOPH.	0	D	U	U	48	7		
ECOLOGY	FR.	0	F	U	U	52	6		
TRANSPORTATION	FR.	0	F	U	U	52	7		
FOREIGN POLICY	JR.	2	B	S	S	0	6		
DOMESTIC POLICY	SOPH.	0	F	U	U	46	10		
EDUCATION	FR.	0	F	U	U	48	11		
HEALTH CARE	FR.	0	F	U	U	50	16		
P.E.	JR.	10	A	E	E	0	0		


EXPLANATION OF MARKS

- SUBJECTS**
- A- PRODUCES MARKEDLY SUPERIOR WORK
 - B- PRODUCES SUPERIOR WORK
 - C- DEMONSTRATES SATISFACTORY WORK
 - D- NEEDS TO IMPROVE PROGRESS IN WORK
 - F- DEMONSTRATES LITTLE OR NO PROGRESS IN WORK
- WORK HABITS AND COOPERATION**
- E- EXCELLENT
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Y'KNOW WHAT CRACKS ME UP? THE MORE I OFFEND YOU PEONS, THE MORE POPULAR I GET!

SO, HEY! DIDJA HEAR ABOUT THE GUY WHO WALKED TO HIS RE-ELECTION OVER A MOUNTAIN OF DEAD IRAQIS?

SIR- IF YOU VETO EXTENDING JOBLESS BENEFITS...

... IT WILL FEED AN IMAGE OF INDIFFERENCE TO AMERICA'S FAMILIES

ISN'T THERE A WAY TO REPACKAGE UNEMPLOYMENT...

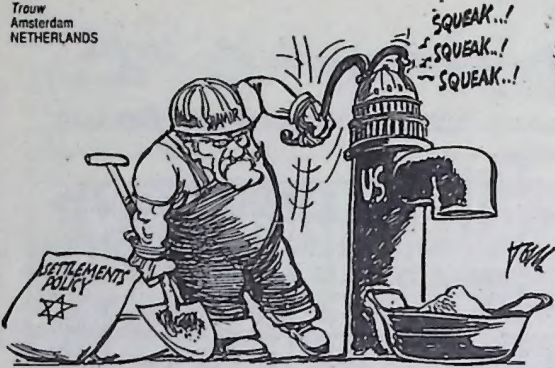
... AS A PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY?!

VIEWS OF THE WORLD

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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

by L. M. Boyd

Q. Not counting schools, what's the country's biggest babysitter?

A. The YMCA. Listed as "the largest provider of childcare."

Chimpanzees catch ducks.

Husbands and wives react differently when their marriages start to come undone. Disconsolate husbands withdraw, says a marriage counselor. They tend to turn silent and secretive, and go their separate ways seemingly alone. Discontented wives, he says, are more inclined to become exceptionally active, joining, volunteering, working overtime.

You and I have something in common with the Norway rat, the roof rat and the house mouse. We eat the same sort of food. Unlike horses and tigers, I mean, or dogs and canaries.

The "zyzzyva" is a tropical American weevil. It probably isn't the last word in your dictionary. It probably should be.

It's against the law in Tulsa, Okla., to go to bed with your boots on.

Am told there's no word for "problem" in the language of the Peruvian Quechua Indians.

Q. Who invented the screwdriver? A. Who I don't know, but why can be explained. It was first devised to bolt knights into their armor.

One out of 17 pregnant teenagers says she's glad.

Now that the Berlin Wall is a thing of the past, so indeed is the alleged plan of the CIA to come up with a chemical mixture to dissolve it.

Q. How long would it take a billionaire to spend that money? A. At \$1,000 a day, about 3,000 years.

Q. What's the world's oldest living language? A. Icelandic. If a ninth century Viking went to Iceland today, it's claimed, he could handle the language reasonably well.

Q. Which was the first of the modern nations to give women the right to vote? A. New Zealand. In 1893.

Women in three major cities tend to have larger bustlines than women elsewhere. That's common knowledge among those who care. Client asks, "How can anybody know that?" Credit none other than the bra manufacturers themselves. They've identified the cities as Los Angeles, Buffalo and Detroit.

What's needed around here is a skiing authority who can explain why most skiers who break a leg in France break a left leg while most who break a leg while skiing in this country break a right leg.

Little wonder the howl of the wolf is a lost and lonely sound. It should be—it signifies separation from the pack or death of pups.

Q. Who was the first U.S. president to visit all 50 states while in office? A. Richard M. Nixon.

Not all chocolate bars melt at 78 degrees F., just most. Hershey made up a big batch of hot-climate bars for the Desert Storm troops. Understand there are a lot left over. Our Chief Prognosticator foresees an upcoming sale on summer outing bars that melt in your midsection but not in your beach bag.

Giraffes, too, get kidney stones.

A raven can throw a rock the size of a golf ball.

Q. Didn't your Love and War man say it's possible for one woman to love two men at the same time? A. He did. And he said further studies

suggest one woman is more likely to love two men than is one man to love two women.

If birds were to sweat—which they don't—it would gum up their plumage, and ruin the aerodynamics of flight, say the experts.

Wrote the wit Don Marquis: "Trouble with the public is there's too much of it."

Blowing your stack may be good for you. Within limits. Or call it letting off steam. Or venting your frustrations. Whatever. According to one medical researcher, a 41-year study at Johns Hopkins indicated "suppressed hostility" raised levels of LDL, the "bad" cholesterol. Subjects who've habitually bottled up their tensions for as long as 20 years appear to be twice as likely to die by age 55, the researchers said.

How old were you before you learned to whistle? A baby bottlenose dolphin can whistle the day it's born.

Q. How long should a hostess wait for a late guest before serving dinner? A. Twenty minutes. In formal etiquette.

Iceland's government puts its accomplished writers, artists and composers on salary.

Wildlifers say sea species are disappearing even faster than land dwellers.

Rabbits love seaweed. Just love it.

You lose weight at high altitudes. Your tissues break down, but don't build up. Or so says one medical specialist.

"Onychomancy" is that curious practice of trying to foretell the future by examining reflections of sunlight on fingernails.

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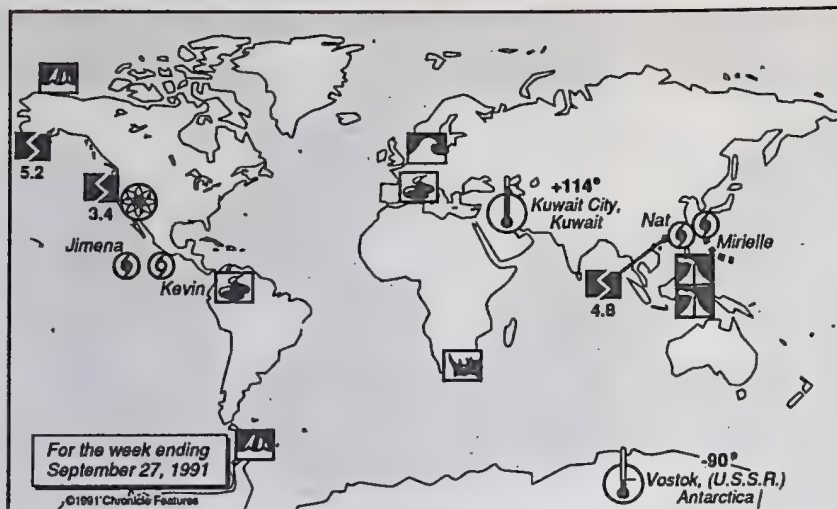
An iceberg the size of Puerto Rico has broken away from the Antarctic polar cap and is drifting northward, posing a serious threat to shipping in the South Atlantic. The United States' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said that satellite analysis shows the iceberg itself is not that dangerous, since its enormous size makes it easily visible on ship radar. NOAA anticipates that the real problem will come when ocean waves cause it to break into smaller icebergs, ranging from "house-size to piano-size."

An ice floe carrying an abandoned Soviet research station and hundreds of drums of fuel and potentially hazardous chemicals is lost somewhere north of Alaska. The deserted chunk of ice broke loose from the Soviet coast on July 24, and was spotted 56 miles north of Pt. Barrow, Alaska, in early September. Once found, the Soviet Research and Development Institute of the Arctic and Antarctic, which operated the station, will hire a vessel to remove the drums and buildings.

Spills

Rebel dynamite attacks on Colombia's oil pipelines have spilled 35 million gallons of crude into rivers and jungles, more than three times the amount of the Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska. Scores of waterways, marshes, lakes, and forests have been polluted by the spills, which the guerrillas hope will force the government to expel foreign interests from the nation's oil business. Many of the region's impoverished people say they don't mind the spills, because they can earn 10 times their normal income by helping to clean it up.

A large oil slick, which spread from waters off the Italian Riviera to France's Côte d'Azur, washed onto resort beaches in Saint Tropez. The French Navy was unable to discover where the oil came from.



Testing

The U.S. conducted its sixth nuclear test of the year beneath the Nevada desert on Sept. 19. Code-named Distant Zenith, the blast had a force of less than 20 kilotons, and was designed to measure the effects of radiation on sensitive military equipment.

Tropical Storms

Typhoon Mirielle, the 19th of the season in the western tropical Pacific, lashed Japan's remote southern islands with maximum winds of 125 miles per hour. The storm disrupted air transportation throughout the region, and was aimed directly at Kyushu Island at the end of the week.

Typhoon Nat brought torrential rains and high winds to Taiwan, but lost force over the island's mountainous terrain. In the eastern Pacific, hurricane Jimena and tropical storm Kevin churned the waters off Mexico.

Marine Life Threat

Hot summer weather and weak winds have caused oxygen levels to plunge in the southern Baltic between Denmark and Sweden, threatening to kill much of the area's marine life. Marine biologists believe that the "death sentence for the seabed" only can be stopped by a storm that would blow fresh ocean water into the area.

Volcanoes

Indonesia's Mt. Lokon spewed fresh flows of lava that set fire to farmland in nearby plantations. The mountain has had small eruptions almost daily since its last major eruption in 1987.

A team of Philippine geologists was dispatched to the area around Malindang Volcano, 470 miles south of Manila, after it started belching gray smoke. Local authorities set up emergency shelters for the 12,000 people who fled their homes when the mountain began to rumble.

Earthquakes

Earth movements were felt in Hong Kong and China's Guangdong Province, the Aleutian Islands, and in northwestern California.

Rhino Roast

Officials in a small South African town hope to attract tourists to a local festival by barbecuing a two-ton rhinoceros. Organizers in Christina, about 200 miles southwest of Johannesburg, say it will take about 60 hours to cook the bull rhino which will be served on Oct. 10. Spokesman Herman Erasmus said it will be killed at a game farm that has too many of the animals. Animal rights groups protested last year when two giraffes were barbecued at similar festivals in other parts of the country.

Additional Sources: The World Meteorological Organization, Japanese Meteorological Agency, Hong Kong Royal Observatory, U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center.



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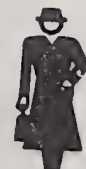


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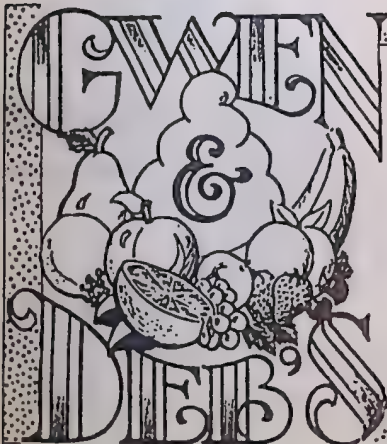
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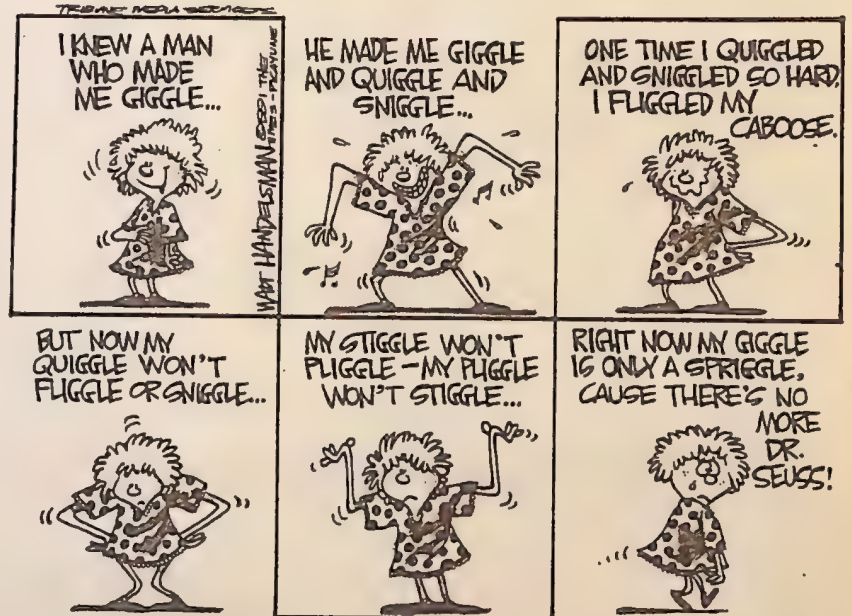
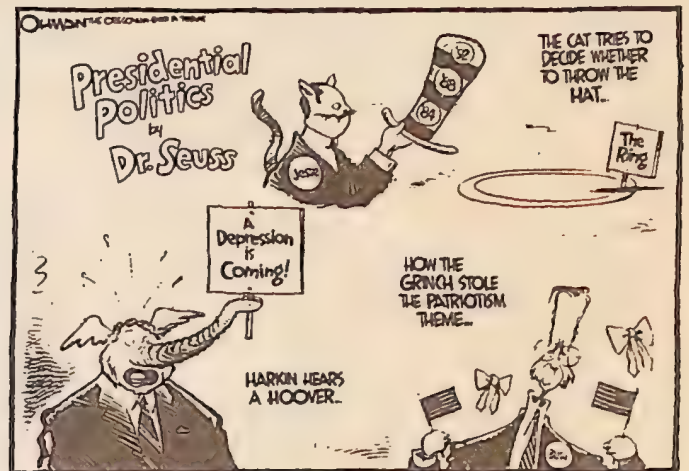
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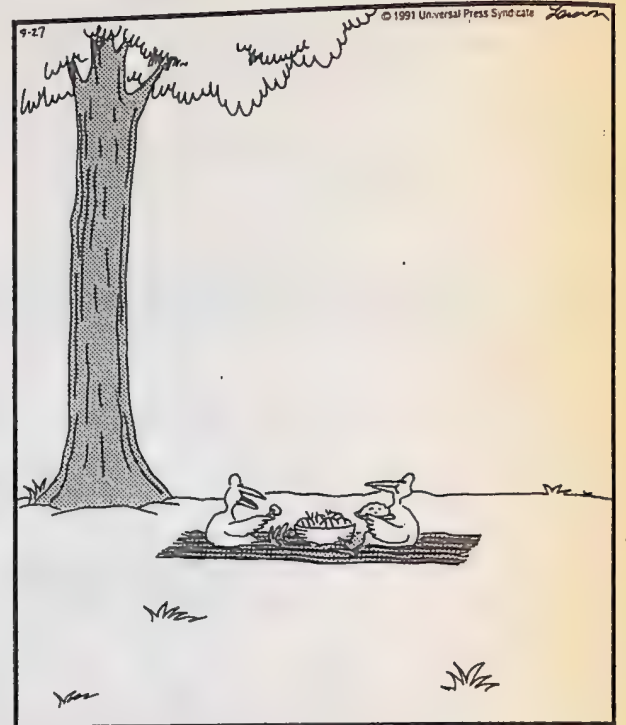
By GARY LARSON



"You should hear him! ... First he howls and growls at me and *then* he thinks he can make everything OK by scratching me behind the ears."



In what was destined to be a short-lived spectacle, a chicken, suspended by a balloon, floated through the Samurai bar's doorway.



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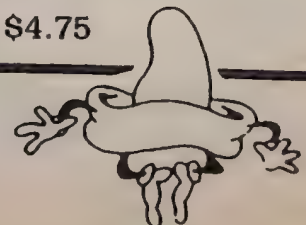
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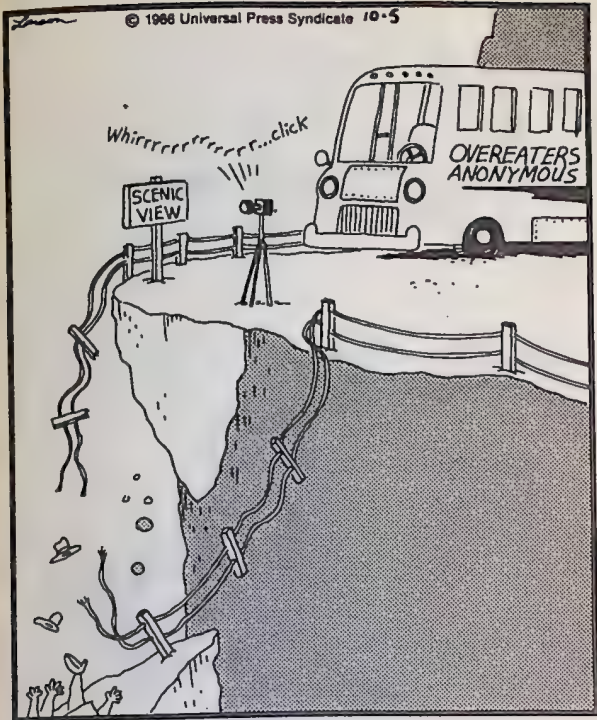
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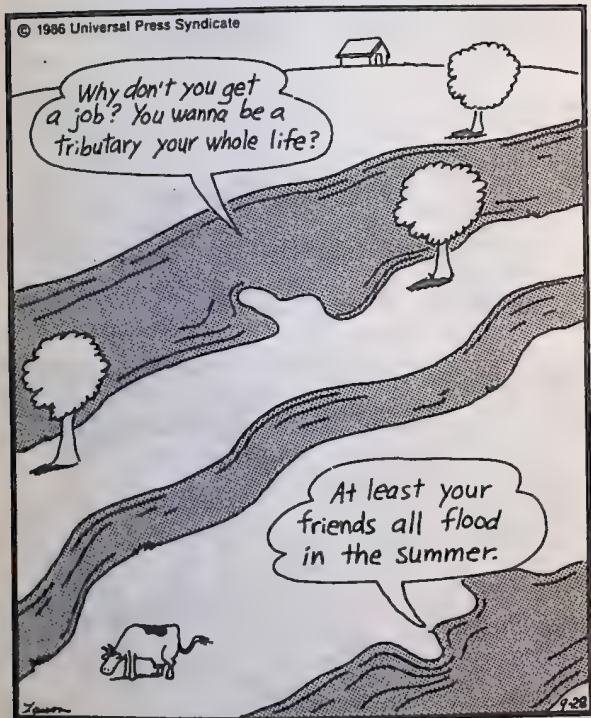
Group photo disasters



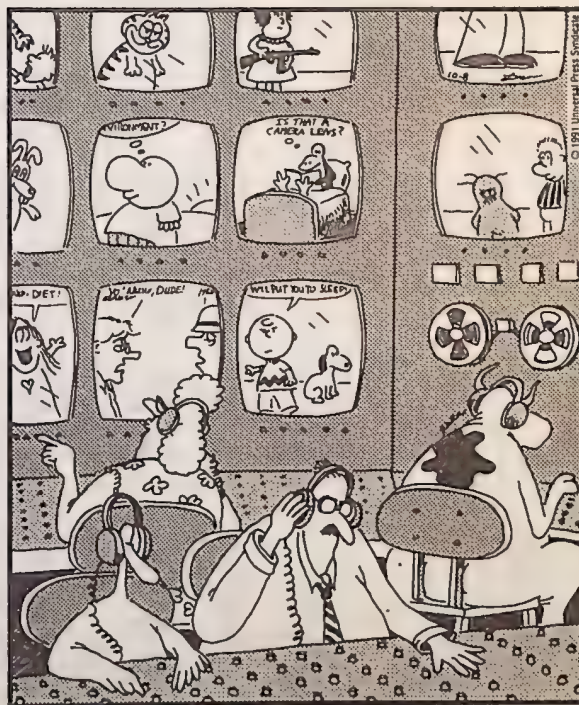
Where the deer and the antelope work



Milli Vanilli's bird, Lilly



Parents of a lazy river



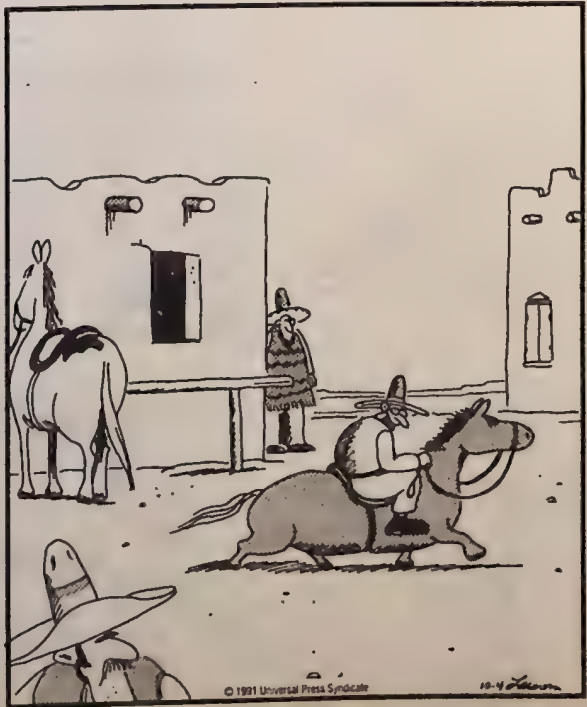
At The Far Side's spy center



Omens (and their meanings)



At the monthly meeting of Squidheads Anonymous



Durango, Mexico, circa 1880: Juan Sanchez cruises through town on the first low-rider.



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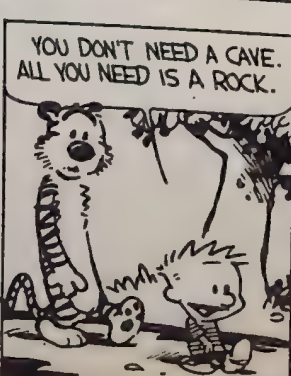
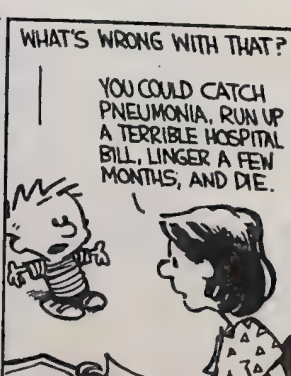
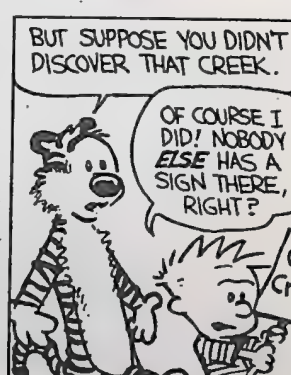
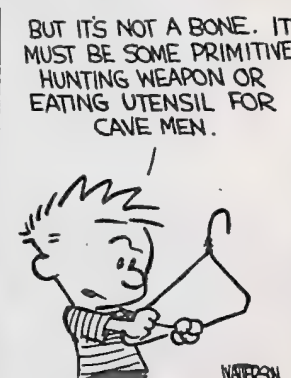
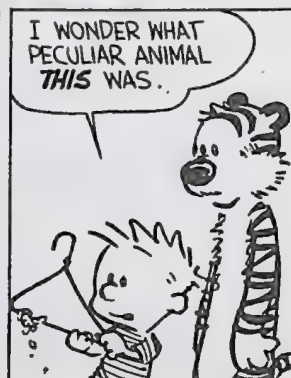
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by BILL WATKINSON





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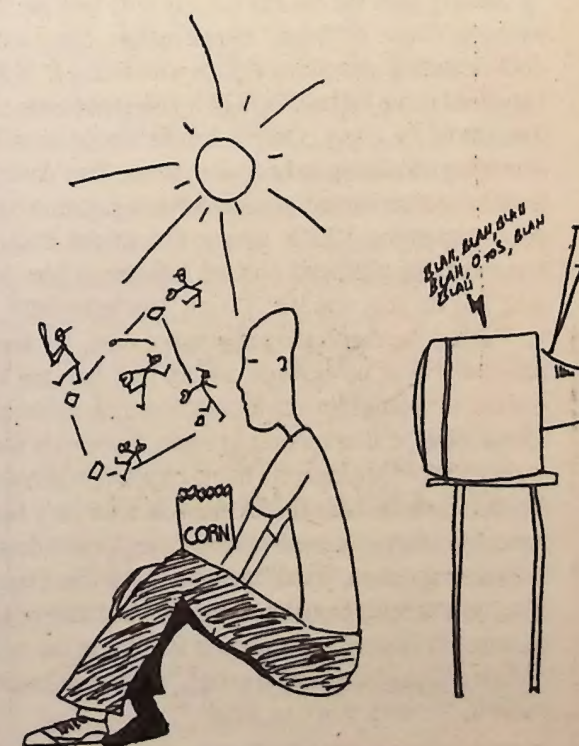
Soccer's my favorite sport to watch live, but when I watch baseball on t.v. I call all the strikes, balls, slides into bases and the close calls using my VCR to record and playback. I call them the way I see them. I keep careful records. So, my final scores and the rest of the world's final scores are usually different.

Most people will say Red Sox vs Oakland was 0 to 3 but I might say it was 6 to 4.

No one asks me for final scores the next day or even for my opinion about the games anymore.

By the end of the season, my World Series' contenders are different from the world's.

I don't mind. After I lost my girlfriend in '88 nothing bothers me.



Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU

humor me

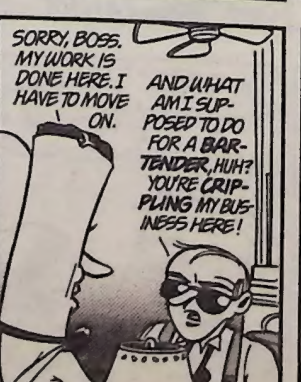
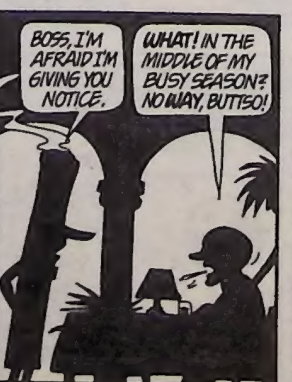
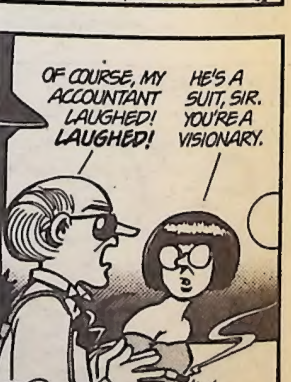
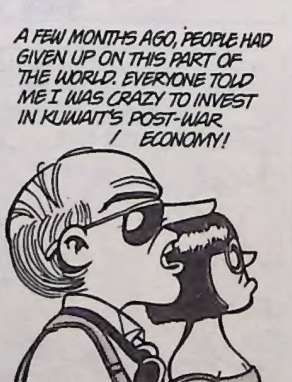
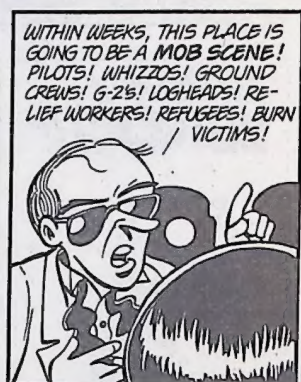
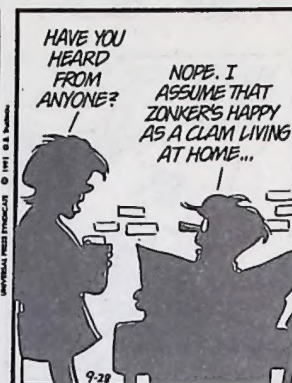
by Izzy Gesell

I'm finally getting used to living with my dog and cat. The pets came as part of a package deal when I got married and it was all or nothing. Believe me I asked. The dog was recently tested and the results showed him to be dyslexic. That explains why he barks when people leave the house. If you ever intend to burglarize my home the dog is trained to let you in, make coffee (Sanka if you prefer) and then bite your butt on the way out. As all dog owners know, you are known in your neighborhood not as an individual human but rather as your dog's owner. Your value to the neighborhood is judged by the behavior of the canine you reside with. Therefore you understand how embarrassing it is for me that my dog pees by lifting his FRONT legs. And you understand why I only walk him at 3 AM.

I've had a dog before and I was used to it. But when this cat slunk into my life I was ready to get rid of it. That was before I knew so many of my friends were Feline Fanatics. They told me not to worry because (and these are their exact words) "having a cat is like having a child." "Hooey," I thought. Man, was I wrong. Last Father's Day this cat actually gave me a present. A tie. One he'd knitted out of his own hairballs, which I took to be a very nice gesture. Of course the only place that would exchange it was Soda and Pet Food City but never mind, it's the thought that counts.

Shortly after the cat arrived, my wife tells me that we have to have it "fixed." Wait a minute. Since when does neutering something equate with fixing it. If that happened to me I'd be BROKEN. This is not a concept thought of by a guy. Only a female would consider neutering and fixing to be synonymous. This concept must have started many years ago. Some guy must have done something VERY wrong and in the ensuing argument his girlfriend pointed a finger at him and said, "I'll fix you, you jerk. I'll cut your balls off!"

Taking the cat to the vet was not easy. He knew something was up because we let him into the car without strapping him into his cardboard cat carrier. Of course, now he'll never trust us again. If you ever want to see a look of surprise on a living creature, watch a cat the first time he tries to lick himself after he's been fixed. My cat spun around several times, looked down, looked up and then "fixed" me with a gaze that clearly said, "you'll never own drapes again." And then he left because his friends were waiting for him at the mall. "When will you be home?" I asked. "Later, don't worry about it," he said. Just like a kid.





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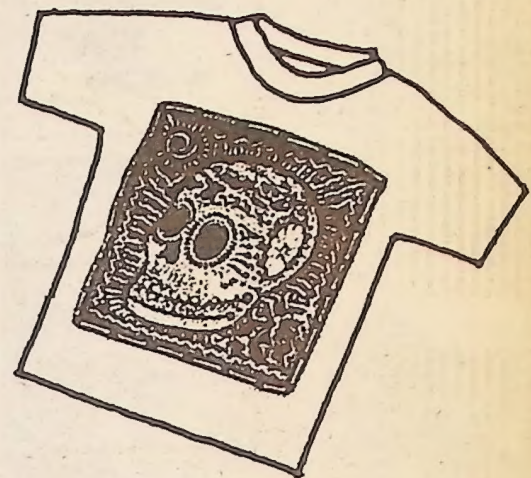
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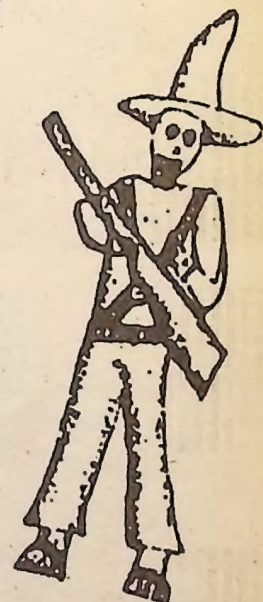
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